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ITEMS FROM EXPERIENCE.

THE BEST WAY.—“I mean,” said a right-hearted member of the Baptist church in F., on renewing his subscription for the *Advocate of Peace*, “I mean to have all the numbers of my last volume bound, and then put them, if they will let me, into the Sabbath school for the children to read. If we can get all the children right on this subject, we shall have no more wars.”

Here, indeed, is the right and only way to exterminate war from the earth. Men who have grown gray under its delusions, are in most cases well nigh incurable; but it would require comparatively little effort to set and keep the rising generation right on the whole subject of peace. Let this alone be done; and, after the lapse of less than half a century, wars would cease from Christendom for ever.

But do you plead the difficulty of interesting the young in the subject of peace? Be it so; this cannot excuse you from making the effort in earnest. It is difficult to interest them in the Bible, or in vital godliness; but shall parents therefore leave their children to neglect them both, and give themselves no concern about the matter?—The plea, however, I believe to be nearly groundless; for children might, by proper training, be made to take a deep interest in our publications and our cause. Let parents set the example; and they would pretty generally find their children ready to follow without much urgency.

I wish *all* the subscribers to the *Advocate* would imitate the example of our excellent friend. If you cannot, or need not, put it into the Sabbath school, send it forth on its errand of peace among your relatives or neighbors. Talk on the subject, excite their curiosity, and then gratify it by loaning them your *Advocate*. Get as many as possible to read it, and read it well.

PEACE AND TEMPERANCE.—“I believe,” said a devoted friend of temperance who is also somewhat interested in peace, “that temperance will do much for peace.”

Undoubtedly; for every good cause helps every other good one; and I think peace is quite as subservient to temperance as temperance is to peace. Our temperance reports state, that intemperance in this country derived its origin or chief impulse from our Revolutionary War; and every body knows how our last war increased the evil to a most alarming extent. Government, in a time of war, becomes the patron and abettor of this vice; it deals out alcohol to all its soldiers and seamen; it lures them into its service mainly, almost solely by means of intoxicating drinks; and every recruiting rendezvous is turned into a groggery of the worst kind. When the soldiers from the city of Portland started forth for the border-war, they filled their canteens with rum, and bade adieu in this respect to their vows as Christians, and to their pledges as members of temperance societies. A war in this country would throw back the cause of temperance a whole generation.

“All this is true; but still I think intemperance has in turn been the occasion of many wars. Public men, both in military and civil offices, are accustomed to drink alcohol in *some* form; and I suspect you would, on thorough examination, find that provocations to war originate frequently, if not commonly, in this cause. Heated with wine or brandy, they say or do what cannot be taken back; and thus nations are plunged into a bloody, protracted war as the sequel of a drunken spree or whim. War-threats, war-speeches, war-measures are often little else than the ebullitions of a half-delirious intemperance among men in power. Two ministers, or two military commanders, driven by strong drink into some unpardonable outburst of passion, involve whole empires in all the crimes and miseries of war.”

INTERFERENCE OF A WAR-SPIRIT WITH THE INTERESTS OF RELIGION—The influence of militia trainings on temperance was long ago seen and exposed; but few suspect the full extent of the mischief they do to the cause of vital godliness. I have found a multitude of such cases as the following:

In a small town near the northern line of Massachusetts, a revival was in progress until a sort of war-fever, originating in a family noted for their hostility to religion, showed itself in efforts to get up some volunteer military company. The project succeeded; the younger people were all ailt in the movement; fifes, and drums, and bugles began to ring through the streets nearly every night; religious meetings were first disturbed, then deserted by many, and finally relinquished. The war-demon triumphed; the revival soon came to an end; and the summer was filled with manœuvres and displays of the mimicry of war.

UNCALCULATED LOSS OF LIFE IN WAR.—I recently visited an old sailor, now a venerable Christian more than eighty, who gave me, in his own early history, a glimpse of what war does for its agents. 'I was,' said he, 'sixteen years old, when the Revolutionary War began, and, on my brother's fitting out a privateer, I embarked. There were ninety on board besides the officers. In a fortnight, we were captured, and carried to a prison in Lisbon, whence we were forced on board a man-of-war, and sailed for the Indies. There I spent seven or eight years, and did not reach this country till after the treaty of 1783. What became of my companions, I know not; but of the whole crew, not more than four or five were ever heard of again, and those, I believe, were all, or nearly all, officers.' Yet that very crew went from a seaport notorious to this day for its war-spirit and its readiness to rush into war! So powerless is the bitterest experience to dissuade men from this game of blood!

WAR AND THE CHURCH.—Our Secretary, a year or two ago, was visiting a town not far from Salem, Massachusetts, and ascertained from the records of the church the comparative progress of religion in times of peace and of war. From 1729 to 1744, fourteen years of peace, there were added to the church 149; an average of about 10 a year. For some 40 years or more from the beginning of the old French War to the close of our Revolutionary War, an era of warlike excitement, or actual conflict, there were only 77 additions; less than two a year, a diminution of more than five hundred per cent. From 1810 to 1815, the period of our last war with two years of antecedent exasperation, only three persons were received into the church; one in a little less than two years, a decrease from the first period of nearly two thousand per cent. From 1830 to 1839, there were 183 additions; some 19 a year, an increase upon the last case of nearly four thousand per cent.!

The example of this town, we take to be a pretty fair specimen of the whole land. Its population has been about as stationary, and as favorably situated as most towns in the country; and its history shows the relative influence of war and peace upon the religious interests of mankind. But, if we assume additions to the church as a criterion, we find war diminishing the actual efficacy of the gospel, first more than 500 per cent., next almost 2000 per cent., and finally well nigh 4000 per cent.; nor is it any exaggeration to suppose, that war neutralizes, in one way and another, from four-fifths to nine-tenths of the saving power of the gospel! Yet how few take this terrible fact into their estimate of the evils attendant upon war!

WAR-BUSINESS ON THE DECLINE.—Our government, soon after the conclusion of our late treaty with England, reduced one half their previous contracts with certain manufacturers of war-weapons; and the papers recently contained an advertisement of several thousand guns, nearly new, and all in good order, to be sold at the Arsenal in Watertown. We believe there are through the land similar indications of the decline of this

bloody, savage business; and every dollar thus saved, we regard as a clear gain of two or more to the country.

This business of making weapons of war, is also far less profitable. Once it was very lucrative; but it is now so extremely uncertain, and affords employment for so small a part of the time, that workmen are beginning to abandon it as less profitable in the long run than most other kinds of business. We rejoice in this fact; for such men, like the sexton and the physician, live only on the miseries of mankind.

PRIVATE LOSSES BY WAR.—‘I would give you,’ said a man in years as he handed me two dollars, ‘ten times as much, if you could prevent war.’—You know then something of its evils?—‘Yes, indeed. I lost a fortune by the French spoliations previous to 1800.’ How much, he did not say; but I learned that it was some \$50,000. And this is just what every war does for vast multitudes; but such incidental losses, though more than the war itself costs, are seldom taken into any estimate of what it wastes.

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN PEACE SOCIETY.

The Society held its Fifteenth Anniversary in Boston, May 29, at 7½ P. M. in the Winter Street Church. That large and beautiful edifice was well filled with an audience that listened to the exercises with profound and apparently gratified attention. The President, S. E. COUES, Esq., presided, and the services were introduced with prayer by Rev. E. N. KIRK, of this city. Extracts from the report were read by the Corresponding Secretary, and the address, which will soon be published, delivered by Rev. ANDREW P. PEABODY, of Portsmouth, N. H.

At the close of the public exercises, the Society held a brief meeting for the choice of officers, and the transaction of other business, and passed the following resolves:

Resolved, That the call of a General Convention of the friends of Peace in London, meets our warm approbation, and excites our most pleasing anticipations; that we approve the delegation appointed to it by our Executive Committee; that we consider the objects proposed by the Convention to be of the highest importance, and trust that measures will be devised by it for the diffusion of pacific sentiments through the world, and the ultimate abolition of war among all nations.

Resolved, That our delegates to the London Convention be requested to make on their return a report to this Society in such way as the Executive Committee may think best.

Voted, That the thanks of this Society be given to the Rev. Andrew P. Peabody, for his eloquent and impressive address, and a copy requested for the press.

Messrs. J. P. Blanchard and Alexander N. Ladd, were appointed a committee to apply to him for it.

REPORT.

The past has been a year both of trial and of triumph to the cause of peace. In common with all enterprises of benevolence, we have found it extremely difficult, amid the pressure of the times, and the special urgency of other claims, to secure the funds indispensable for the prosecution of our work; but, with the smiles of the God of peace, and the favor of his friends, we have succeeded even, in this respect, much beyond our fears, and comparatively as well as almost any kindred society. Our income, though less than the average of years immediately preceding, has not diminished in proportion to the general depression of the times; and we have continued our former scale of operations with considerable increase in some departments, and with little curtailment in any. Our only discouragement has been found in the matter of funds; for in every thing else the cause has been decidedly prosperous. In no year have we seen such cheering indications of progress. Incredulity is yielding to the force of truth, and the public mind opening to receive our statements, if not in full faith, yet